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Bird Scooters Land in Beaumont

The City of Beaumont has partnered with the Los Angeles, California-based, environmentally friendly electric transportation company, Bird Rides, to bring shared e-scooters to the city. The scooters are available through a mobile phone application, and riders pay to use the scooter per minute at no cost to the city.

Mayor Mouton stated, "We are happy to welcome Bird to Beaumont and look forward to having scooters available. Not only are they an exciting new way to get around, but they're a viable transportation option for residents and a way to make the community more sustainable."

The company plans on offering scooters to residents and visitors to help reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion on roadways. The scooters also provide a safe way to get around during the pandemic and offer residents without cars another transportation option.

The electric scooters can be used on roads and in bike lanes and have a maximum speed of 15 mph. Scooters must be parked out of the way of pedestrians and never blocking driveways. Riders are required to be 18 years old and above to access the scooters. They are also encouraged to wear a helmet on every ride and are required to obey all standard rules of the road.

Planning and Community Development Director Chris Boone added, "The scooters are a useful way to bridge the gap between public transportation and a person's home or work. More transportation options can bring a lot of benefits to the city."

Bird offers the following programs that are available for all who qualify:

Community Pricing - Bird's <u>Community Pricing Program offers a 50% discount</u> to low-income riders, Pell grant recipients, select local nonprofit and community organizations, veterans, and senior citizens. It's designed to be the most inclusive micromobility discount program available anywhere. To sign up for the Community Pricing Program, download the Bird app, create an account, and email your proof of eligibility to <u>access@bird.co</u>.

Free Rides for Healthcare Workers and Emergency Personnel - Bird is proud to offer free rides to healthcare workers and emergency personnel. To sign up, email a copy of your medical identification card along with your name and phone number to together@bird.co. Eligible riders will receive two free 30-minute rides per day for as long as it takes to help our communities to recover from this global health crisis.

Community Mode - Community Mode allows anyone with a Bird account to report or provide feedback on vehicle-related issues such as poorly parked or damaged vehicles in their area. When a report is submitted, a member of the Bird team is assigned to correct the issue. Anyone can access Community Mode by tapping the yield sign on the bottom left of the Bird map.

If a resident has questions or concerns about the e-scooters, the company can be reached directly at 1-866-205-2442 or hello@bird.co. More information about the company can be found on their website (www.bird.co) and on their blog (www.bird.co).